

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed Oct. 30, 2008. The Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance. To the extent any prior objections or rejections are still applicable, they are respectfully traversed.

Claims 21-27, 29, 31-33, 35, 37-39, 41 and 43-51 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1-20, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40 and 42 stand cancelled.

Claims 21, 25, 26, 29, 31-33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43-51 have been amended.

No new claims have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

At paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action, claim 24 has been allowed and claims 26, 27, 32, 38, 39, 41, 43, 46, 50 and 51 have been indicated to include allowable subject matter.

The Applicant has rewritten claims 26, 32, 38, 41, 43, 46 and 51 in independent form. Further, the Applicant has changed the dependency of other claims to depend from these claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes all claims should be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

At paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 20-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33-35, 37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Seaman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,262,977 (hereinafter "Seaman").

Claims 20, 28, 34 and 40 are no longer pending in the application, and accordingly their rejection is believed to be moot. Further, claims 21, 22, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, and 37 have been amended to depend from claims that include indicated allowable subject matter, and are believed to be allowable at least due to their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

At paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 30, 36, 37, 42, 44, 45, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Seaman in view of Chin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,298,061 (hereinafter “Chin”).

Claims 30, 36, and 42 are no longer pending in the application and accordingly their rejection is believed to be moot. Further, claims 37, 44, 45, and 47-49 have been amended to depend from claims that include indicated allowable subject matter, and are believed to be allowable at least due to their dependency.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that may delay issue of a Notice of Allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the Applicant’s attorney at 617-951-2500 in hopes they may be addressed in an expedited manner, for example by Examiner Amendment..

In summary, all the independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and therefore all the dependent claims that depend there from are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully solicits favorable action.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

____/James A. Blanchette/_____
James A. Blanchette
Reg. No. 51,477
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue
Boston, MA 02210-2414
(617) 951-2500